From: Paul Bruneau
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/17/02 10:10am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Public comment regarding the Microsoft Settlement under the Tunney Act:

A company is found guilty of breaking the law regarding their monopoly. For "punishment" they are supposed to donate their own product to one of the only markets where they do not have a monopoly (which was gained through illegal methods). How is this justice?

The harm done to Microsoft's competitors (and to the public via monopoly pricing and lost competition) cannot be undone. But the only way to reduce future harm (caused by their monopoly) is to divide the company so that the operating system is produced by a separate company than applications.

In this way, the bundling that Microsoft has done so many times in the past to promote its weak products can be stopped and real competition can come back to the software industry.

Looking at what happened to Netscape, who at one time had a superior product with 80% market share, then saw it sapped away because Microsoft forced computer makers to pre-install Internet Explorer if they wanted to be sold Windows, how can anyone doubt the harm that Microsoft has caused through its practices?

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